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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

Overnight Brief

Friday, February 8, 2002
0530 EST

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ANTI-CHAVEZ REMARK SPARKS DEMONSTRATIONS IN CARACAS

(SBU) Up to 3,000 demonstrators gathered loudly but peacefully at the presidential residence to protest attempts to arrest Air Force Colonel Soto, reports the Embassy. Soto earlier called Chavez a tyrant and urged him to resign. That the colonel's comments quickly provoked an outpouring of support reflects the growing level of public frustration and disenchantment, comments the bureau. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon, Watch/WHA bureau telcon, Reuters)*

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